

# THE TIMES

Karamoja famine will return with a vengeance, page 11

## Poor health forces Mr Kosygin to quit premiership

Mr Kosygin has relinquished the Soviet premiership after 16 years in office because of the ill health that followed a heart attack a year ago. His last public appearance, at the

Moscow Olympics, has been followed by weeks in hospital. His stop-gap successor is Mr Nikolai Tikhonov who, at 75, is only a year younger than Mr Kosygin.

## Stop-gap replacement appointed

By Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Oct 23

Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Minister for the past 16 years and the most important man in the Soviet leadership after President Brezhnev, has resigned because of ill health. It is officially announced today that his successor is Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, his Deputy. Mr Kosygin, who is 76, had a serious heart attack in October from which he has only partially recovered. He is out of public sight for four weeks, appearing only at the end of February to make an election speech. He last appeared at the closing of the Moscow Olympics on August 3, then suffered a release. According to informed sources, he has been in hospital weeks.

His resignation, one of the occasions in Soviet history when a leader has retired in honour, leaves an ominous gap in the Soviet leadership that will be virtually impossible to fill. For the past year his job has been done by Mr Tikhonov, the Party Prime Minister, who has recently elevated to full membership of the ruling Politburo. Last November, when it was clear that Mr Kosygin's ill-health was serious, Mr Tikhonov's appointment was announced to be that of the Soviet's Soviet. Soviet equivalents of Stalin and Khrushchev, who were granted with longed-for retirements. But in the end, it is clear he is, at 75, a stop-gap replacement, his birth of Mr Kosygin's "successor".

At the level Nikolayevich Kosygin is a worker's family in Leningrad, in 1904, was a member of the Red Army at the age of 15 and was one of a generation of early communists who quickly rose to prominence, filling the gaps left by Stalin's purges. He became a party member in 1927 and 10 years later was a member of the Bolshevik Central Committee. In 1939, he was a people's leader to get with honour.



Tikhonov profile, page 6  
Leading article, page 13

## Seamen call strike in dispute over Cunard

By Peter Evans

Cunard's strike call was endorsed after talks convened by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service failed to produce an immediate settlement of the dispute. Although both parties said that several points were clarified, under merchant shipping legislation the Cunard strike can be legally applied only after the court has ruled on the legality of the strike.

He will give Parliament details on Monday of a contingency plan for action which will available to Cunard if the strike runs out. That could happen some time next week, he admitted. Yesterday, the number of people held in police cells rose from 2,791 to 3,288.

Prisoners are being held in cells at police stations and court complexes, sometimes in barely tolerable conditions, after they have been refused entry to prisons as a result of the dispute.

Mr Whitehead declined to explain how the strike would be used. He would only say he would not rule out their use in certain circumstances and conditions. He hoped it would not be necessary to use troops inside prisons. Up to now, we have not used troops or police inside existing prisons, he said.

Church inquisition: The Church of England's soul is to undergo examination by itself and other churches.

Lucas' legacy: Legal action is expected over £15,000 left to the missing peer.

Spain: Andalusia will have an autonomous government next year under an agreement signed in Madrid.

Middle East: King Khalid of Saudi Arabia accuses Colonel Gaddafi of Libya of being a spearhead against Islam and Islamic sanctities.

Hongkong: Illegal Chinese immigrants will no longer be permitted to remain in the colony.

Kelly case: Four police officers face perjury charges.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 23, 24. Appointments, 7, 23. Car buyers' guide, 22.

London: Michael Ratcliffe on BBC 2's "Taming of the Shrew" Sports, pages 8, 10.

Rugby: RPS to study violence in game. Rowing: New national coach appointed. Boxing: Triple world title bid for Wembley.

Business News, pages 16-21.

Stock market: Equities remained buoyant despite a profit warning from ICL. The decision to leave M&R at 16 per cent left Giles unchanged and the FT Index rose 3.8 to 492.5.

Financial Editor: ICL after the New Bass, 8.2. Bass, 8.3. Ian Murray on Business features, 10. Ian Murray on

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## HOME NEWS

# Unions to make an attempt today to get Thomson decision on Times Newspapers reversed

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor  
The newspaper unions are to hold talks with Thomson British Holdings today in a final attempt to reverse the company's decision to cease publishing *The Sunday Times*, *The Times* and its three supplements and offer the titles for sale.

A meeting with Mr Gordon Brunton, chairman of TBH, was arranged yesterday after printing leaders met the management of Times Newspapers Ltd for "clarification" discussions on the closure announcement made on Wednesday.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, said he had "some hope, but not much" that the parent company would reconsider its decision to withdraw from national newspaper publishing in the United Kingdom. The NGA was willing to make some concessions on new technology if the papers could be kept going at the Gray's Inn Road printing plant.

## Editor starts consortium talks

By Dan van der Vat

The Editor of *The Times*, Mr William Rees-Mogg, started consultations yesterday on forming a consortium to take over the newspaper, which, with its four sister publications, faces sale or closure by next March.

He said he had been encouraged by the initial response, but it was too early to expect concrete developments. His talks of yesterday had been purely preliminary.

Speculation was rife while fact was scarce to non-existent last night about possible bids for some of the titles by outside corporations or entrepreneurs. "The only 'declared candidate' remains Mr Robert Maxwell, of *Evening Standard* Press.

Further support by the editorial staff for Mr Rees-Mogg's initiative, which he regards as a sine qua non for its success, came yesterday from Journalists of *The Times* Ltd (JOTT), a company formed by the staff during the closure of 1979 to defend the paper and its character.

The company has more than

260 shareholders from among the up to 300 journalists employed by the paper and its Literary, Educational and Higher Education supplements.

On Wednesday, the day the present owners, Thomson British Holdings Ltd, announced their decision to sell, the chapel (office branch) committee of the National Union of Journalists, which has a similar number of members on the four publications, expressed its support for the consortium idea.

The editor yesterday outlined his view of the potential structure of events relating to the consortium. The first stage was to satisfy himself that in pursuing the initiative he was doing what the journalists wanted and that he had their virtually unanimous support.

"If we can put forward proposals people believe in, I am confident that we can obtain the money."

The second stage was to persuade the present owners, now the vendors, that such a consortium, as it was right for *The Times*, Mr Rees-Mogg was confident of sympathy from Thomson British Holdings and from Lord Thom-

son of Fleet, whom he will be seeing in Toronto next week.

The third stage would be for the most difficult, and would involve the development of a management plan which, if realized, would produce a profit on a known turnover of £30m a year.

"This is entirely a question of costs, as revenue cannot be raised significantly," he said.

"The present production costs are simply far too high, and we must satisfy ourselves and others that the paper can be produced at a cost lower than its revenue."

The fourth stage would be the production of a clear plan, "in effect a prospectus" for the formation of a consortium.

Those stages would probably overlap or even occur simultaneously in some cases.

"If we can put forward proposals people believe in, I am confident that we can obtain the money."

The spokesman for JOTT said that it favoured the retention of the three supplements with the daily paper by a consortium, but generally favoured separate ownership for *The Sunday Times*.

The sale or closure of *The Times* has been widely reported and commented on by the French press.

According to *Le Figaro*, "at the centre of the controversy can be found the customary problems of vast sectors of British industry, that is to say new technology, restrictive practices of all kinds, a staggeringly low level of production and an ever-swelling number of staff, which nothing can justify."

According to *France-Soir*, which would seem to share a general astonishment at the idea, "if it were to disappear,

shops, the newspaper intends to remain that sort of institution which has served as a voice of the British establishment for nearly two centuries of existence."

*Le Monde* and *Le Matin* bring the issue at length but very factually.

Most space of all is devoted to the matter by *Liberation*, the left-wing newspaper founded by Jean-Paul Sartre. A front page headline asks: "Is England for sale?" and inside the article about *The Times* is paired with one about the liner Queen Elizabeth 2.

*Liberation* tells its readers that: "The Times is the monument to boredom, competence and seriousness" edited each day in London, is for sale.

## Duty to protect public, Mr Whitelaw says

Continued from page 1

Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, commented after a meeting of its national executive today: "If there is confrontation, then prison officers will have to solve it and end it out."

"God forbid that should happen," he said.

But if Mr Whitelaw meant to use prison camps "we would say that is a calculated act of provocation and escalation action even further."

In response to my question Mr Whitelaw denied that the Home Office circular, about stopping out of only routine bail such as stopping out and feeding, "I do not want to do that or get to that stage," Mr Steel said.

Mr Whitelaw said he had made it clear to the POA officials that he had the duty to take whatever action was necessary in the circumstances to maintain the safety of the public and to carry out the criminal justice system.

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## HOME NEWS

## Dilemma for Mr Pym as the Treasury seeks 400m cut in defence

Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent  
Another dispute about defence spending is now in hand as the case may be likely to break about the end of Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, ordering a fresh series of closures last night.

The Press Association said it documents spelling out, on one hand, a demand from Treasury for still deeper cuts in the defence budget, and the other hand, concern in Armed Forces about the change to their operational ability.

Leaving from a "secret" to Mr Pym from Mr John Jenkin, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the agency says that:

"Ministry of Defence is going to prune defence spending beyond the annual of £140m called for last

Mr Biffen says: "In the situation we now face, we must explore the possibility of a substantially greater contribution to defence, say, of the order 400m a year."

Further information suggests the Treasury wants to raise figure to £500m a year.

Meanwhile, Mrs Thatcher, which

recently had high hopes

of Mrs Thatcher's government as a "staunch supporter" of alliance policies, is aware of those pressures in Whitehall and the likely effects on the Services. Their consumption of fuel by the Armed Forces was reduced last month.

The cut, now being called for by the Treasury, will mean that Britain's defence spending will rise by only 1% per cent, only half the sum required

## City livery company faces suit by guests

Amabel Ferriman  
Services Correspondent  
The Society of Apothecaries, a livery company of 1,400 members, may be sued for sums of pounds after an outbreak of hepatitis at their last June.

More than 40 of 146 guests at ladies' night dinner on 5 June were affected by hepatitis and a few have been unable to work since.

The cause of the outbreak is known to be the hepatitis virus, which is being investigated by Dr Dilwyn Jones, medical officer for the port of London. He is due to produce his report by the beginning of December.

Charles O'Leary, clerk of the society, said yesterday about six claims for compensation had been received so

## Protests fail to prevent a deportation

By Lucy Hodges

A Pakistani whose case has aroused protests from immigrant organizations and lawyers is to be sent home today despite a last-minute fight to prevent his deportation.

Telephone calls were made yesterday to the Home Office and a telex message was sent to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg lodging a formal complaint against the Government.

But the Home Office remained adamant that Mr Mohammad Zamir, of Birmingham, should be sent back to Pakistan as the Law Lords directed in July. It rests its case on the fact that Mr Zamir married before he came to Britain and did not tell the authorities and was therefore guilty of perjury.

Mr Zamir's lawyers, led by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, argued on July 24 that the Government is in breach of Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. They say that the rules on illegal entry make immigrants liable to arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.

Mr Blom-Cooper is also arguing that the Government has violated another section of Article 5 of the convention by not giving his client proper rights of appeal against his detention.

The Home Office said last night the case had been fully considered and that the minister was convinced that Mr Zamir should be sent back.

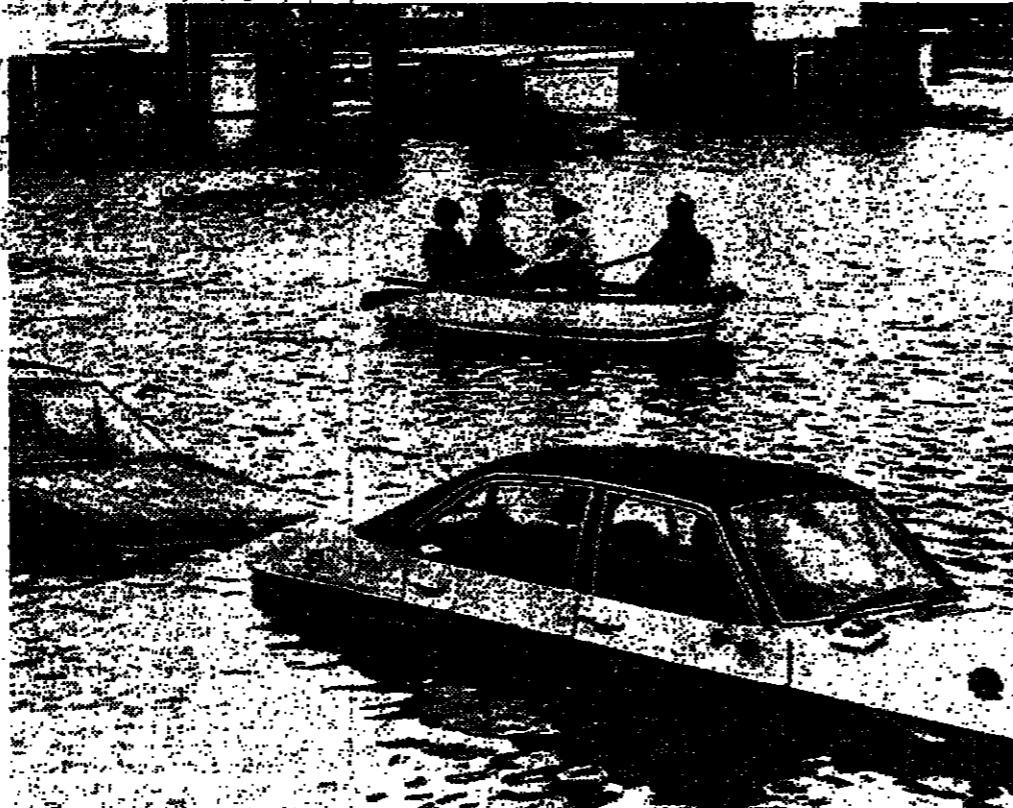
## Editor refused to correct mistakes in article about Trotsky's murderer

The editor of the *New Statesman* should have realized the national and professional implications of attributing to a Czech nationalist statements he had made, and should have had a prompt correction, the Council states today.

The Council upheld a complaint by Mr Hans Weber, of Vägen 28A, Stockholm, having published statements attributed to him which he had never made and which it is now stated that he had written a letter to Trotsky's editor and had fled from Czechoslovakia, the editor re-

quested a correction, saying in the *New Statesman* Roger Boyes speculated on whether Ramon Mercader, Trotsky's murderer, was really dead. It is now claimed that Mr Weber had received a letter from Mercader postmarked Moscow with no hint in it of fatal

Boyes said the Soviet Union issued an inaccurate note about Mercader's death because Mercader's book



Ulster flood havoc

Soldiers and police in an Army inflatable boat keeping a watch

on homes abandoned because of flooding in Maune Road, Newry, Co Down, after 10 hours of rain in Northern Ireland and northerly areas of the Irish Republic. Many roads, including the motorway between Ballymoney and Ballymena, in Co Antrim, were closed. The Royal

Ulster Constabulary said a number of rivers

in Co Londonderry and Co Tyrone were running dangerously high, and some were on the verge of bursting their banks. A spokesman said driving conditions throughout the province were hazardous and advised drivers to stay indoors if possible. Firemen reported that the road between Monaghan and Ballybay, Co Monaghan, was flooded.

## In brief

## Ban on football fan aged 82

## Changes needed in research funding, Lord Flowers says

By Our Education Correspondent

The dual support system of funding university research has broken down, Lord Flowers, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, said yesterday. British universities

were no longer able to cover all the overhead costs associated with research.

Under the system the Government, through its grant to the University Grants Committee, is supposed to provide the general overheads of running a university, while the research councils give funds to support research projects.

The science budget, administered by the research councils, was just about keeping up with inflation, Lord Flowers told the college's commemoration day audience in London. But increasingly that budget was having to go to the upkeep of institutions because the Government's grant for overseas students was not keeping up with inflation.

Earlier this year many universities were predicting a fall of a half or more in their intake of overseas students. Sir Alec Morrison, chairman of the CVCP, gave a warning that the Government's policy on overseas students' fees could put a number of universities at risk.

The universities' recurrent grant has been reduced this year by an amount which the Government says is attributable to the cost of overseas students, with the universities left to fill the gap, if they can, by charging greatly increased tuition fees.

Anglican community faces some candid criticisms  
Church of England's soul on trial

By Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

An examination of the state of the Church of England's soul, by itself and by 17 other churches to prod its conscience, will take place next year. The church will be asked to state what it thinks it is for, and will be subjected to candid criticisms of its aims by the outsiders.

The process is called a "partners in mission consultation".

It was invented by the Anglican Communion at a conference in Dublin in 1973. It is intended to turn the attention of other national churches in the Anglican Communion on each church, one by one. The Church of England's turn has

how they think the Church of England is performing its task, after a detailed examination of the way it is operating.

With the two Roman Catholic churches, the appraisal will be conducted by the Church of North India and the Evangelical Churches of East Germany. Participation by the Orthodox Churches is being sought through the World Council of Churches.

The main organizations of the Church of England have been asked to give a statement of their objectives and to answer a "questionnaire" described as "searching".

The process is to be carried out by the Church Commissioners and the Church Missionary Society. Local diocesan bishops' councils have also been subjected to the questionnaire process. Replies are said to indicate a certain uneasiness.

A key question asks what the organization concerned means by the word "mission" and it is no secret that the wrong answer is the conversion of savages overseas.

They will prepare a report on

the "mission" referred to in the project's title is taken to refer to the whole sense of purpose of the Church of England, starting in its own backyard.

The Church of England will field a team which, with representatives of the other churches taking part, will study the church in depth next summer.

The appraisals will be presented to the General Synod of the Church of England next summer in two parts, one from the outside consultants and one from the team that represented the Church of England.

The process is described in the *Church Times* as being carried out by the general synod next month, and published today.

It helps to set the tone of a "new beginning" for the general synod, after its recent election of a new membership.

At the new membership's first meeting, after the inauguration of the session by the Queen, the synod will undertake general debates on the broader questions facing the church in the 1980s.

## Predicted fall in overseas students disproved, minister claims

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

The number of overseas students who have accepted places at British universities on undergraduate courses starting this autumn is virtually the same as last year, despite the new high fees for overseas students, and despite the dire warnings from many universities.

Figures released yesterday by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) show that in 1979 5,758 overseas students have accepted places on undergraduate courses, compared with 5,767 at the same time last year, when fees were between a half and a fifth of their present minimum level of £2,000 for an arts course, £3,000 for a science course and £5,000 for the clinical year of a medical, dental or veterinary science course.

The CVCP said yesterday that the latest figures suggested that the strenuous efforts made by universities to continue to attract overseas students had been successful. However, the figures needed to be treated with great caution.

The minimum fees being charged by most universities were well below the actual full-cost fee which the Government was deducing. So even if universities took the same number of overseas students, they would still be badly out of pocket.

Furthermore, figures for overseas postgraduate students, which in recent years had accounted for half the total number of overseas students, were not yet available, "and the position in relation to them may be a good deal worse", it said.

## LONDON

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PORT HARCOURT

## HOME NEWS

## US court action over \$15,000 legacy left to Lord Lucan

By Richard Ford

A court action in the United States over a legacy will provide another twist in the case of Lord Lucan, the peer who disappeared six years ago after the death of his children's nursemaid.

His trustee in bankruptcy is bringing an action against the executors of the estate of his godmother, who have refused to pay the \$15,000 she left to him, on the grounds that he died before she did. As a result, under American law the money left by Mrs. Maria Brady-Tucker is not payable and should go to the other beneficiaries of her estate.

However, Mr. Dennis Gilson, an accountant, who is the trustee in bankruptcy, says that legacy Lord Lucan is presumed to be alive, and was alive at the time of his godmother's death three years ago, and that the money should go to him.

He said: "The executors of the estate have refused to pay the money and we expect legal action over this to begin in New York before the end of the year."

## Airlines' complaint on fees 'misleading'

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Eighteen foreign airlines which are taking the British Airports Authority to the High Court over its increase in charges at Heathrow might have done their homework properly, Mr. John Mulkern, managing director of the authority, suggested yesterday.

The authority's computer had indicated, he said, that similar timetables of flights as operated by the foreign airlines at Heathrow would cost Air France 8 per cent more at Paris, Swissair 11 per cent more at Zurich, Lufthansa 63 per cent more at Frankfurt, Austrian Airlines 89 per cent more at Vienna, and Sabena 234 per cent more at Brussels.

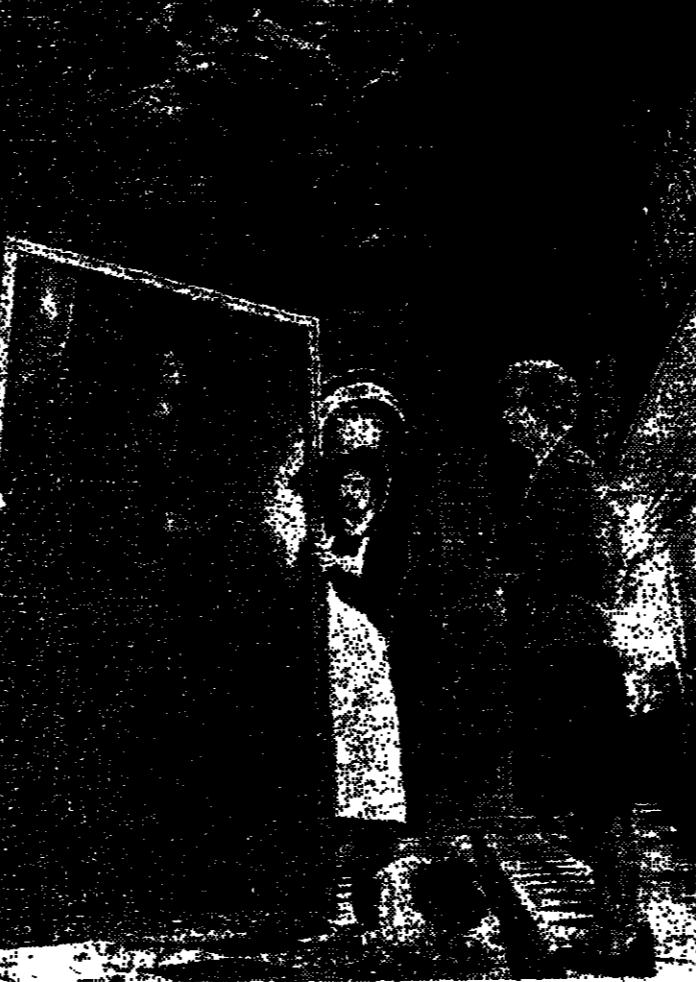
The airlines are protesting about increases of 35 per cent in charges imposed by the authority at Heathrow since April 1, and they allege that in individual cases the increases are as high as 100 per cent. Mr. Mulkern said the figures quoted by the airlines high-

lighted peak-period charges at Heathrow and were misleading because the authority operated a system of peak and off-peak fees, as did the airlines.

"Charges for two of the 18 foreign airlines which have taken legal action have gone down. For the same pattern of flights, Sabena's landing charge bill, based on the 1980-81 rates, should be down 15 per cent on the previous rates," Mr. Mulkern said.

Austrian Airlines will be even fiercer off, because their bill should be down 26 per cent. Lufthansa does not have too much to complain about, since their annual bill will be up by only 8 per cent, which compares favourably with the overall Heathrow increase of 40 per cent."

The airlines' main complaint to the court when their case is heard in up to two years' time is that the authority increased its charges in an attempt to meet a new target of 6 per cent return on net assets imposed on it



Photograph by Brian Hart

The Duchess of Devonshire supervising the removal of a Van Dyck portrait from Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, for the forthcoming Royal Academy exhibition of Old Masters.

## Cancer screening 'saves lives'

By Annabel Ferriman

Health Services Correspondent

Early detection of breast cancer can reduce the risk of death from the disease by almost a third, a new survey published yesterday claims.

Of 7,000 women screened for breast cancer at the British Provident Association medical centre in London, which celebrated its tenth anniversary yesterday, more than 200 cases were diagnosed.

The centre announced that more than 70 per cent were alive and healthy six years after diagnosis, compared with it is rapidly being caught up

less than 50 per cent of the average unscreened women.

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The centre announced that more than 70 per cent were alive and healthy six years after diagnosis, compared with it is rapidly being caught up

by lung, cancer and ischaemic heart disease. For women aged 55-59, death rates in 1960 were 569 for breast cancer, 321 for ischaemic heart disease and 96 for lung cancer. The corresponding figures for 1976 were 648, 510 and 257 deaths a million.

The only hope for improving the outlook for breast cancer victims lies in early detection and simple local surgery. The medical centre has played a great role in developing the technology of X-ray diagnosis.

By June, cancer and ischaemic heart disease rates in 1976 were 554 per 100,000, and the death rate was 569 for breast cancer, 321 for ischaemic heart disease and 96 for lung cancer. The corresponding figures for 1976 were 648, 510 and 257 deaths a million.

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Pompidu  
adviser  
to stand  
president

## WEST EUROPE



Cardinal Wyszyński in Rome: Cardinal Wyszyński, on arrival at Rome airport yesterday at the beginning of a two-weeks' visit, during which he is expected to have several meetings with the Pope.

There is a feeling of conviction in Rome that the Polish Workers' confidence

from Peter Nichols

Rome, Oct 23

Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the incoming Prime Minister, can have drawn satisfaction from the notably muted opposition to his new coalition which came from the Communists in the confidence debate today.

He succeeds a Government which encouraged the Congress opposition for two years, from the Communists. Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, reaffirmed today that no party would oppose the administration, but he was much more tender in his approach.

It was certainly not the Government that Italy needed to overcome the crisis facing it in all areas, but he added: "We are ready to give our contribution to resolve urgent questions and problems of our society properly. Knowing full well that there will be no lack of manoeuvres and efforts at putting off or sludging the solution of these problems, we shall struggle to make Parliament and the Government face them and decide with speed."

He was speaking on the opening day of the confidence debate in the Chamber of Deputies which is expected to end on Saturday. A favourable vote for the Government is assured. Signor Forlani has the support not only of his own Christian Democrats, but also of the Socialists, the Republicans and "Social Democrats".

The tone of the Communists in opposition is, nevertheless,

important to him. The immediate problems are economic and outright opposition from the Communists would be an obstacle to the ambitious plan he has outlined of dealing with economic problems.

Both Signor Forlani and Signor Berlinguer have sounded a new note of realism. The Prime Minister insisted that the country required encouragement rather than gloom and refused to accept the catastrophic approach to Italy's troubles. He reaffirmed his faith in its native virtues.

However, there are criticisms in the press today of the somewhat bland way in which he listed all the issues facing his administration, which would require a very long time indeed if he were genuinely to tackle them all. The Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* pointed out that he might be expecting to stay in office "just above 2001".

Signor Berlinguer's careful attitude was in part dictated by divisions within the party on the outcome of the Fiat conflict. Signor Berlinguer is directly recalling that he never directly encouraged the Fiat workers to "occupy the factories" as it had been alleged in some sections of the press.

The unions themselves are also finding that their failure to impose their leadership on the whole rank-and-file of the Fiat workers had brought the need for self-questioning about the "arbitrari" as it was adopted by the trade union movement in a spirit of pragmatic realism.

**Basque politician shot dead by terrorists**

San Sebastian, Oct 23.—Gunmen believed to be Basque separatists murdered a Basque politician and a telephone company executive today, police said.

Signor Jaime Arrese, a member of the ruling Democratic Centre Union who was to take up a seat in the Madrid Parliament, was shot in the Basque town of Elgoibar, where he was a former mayor.

Signor Juan Manuel García Cordero, local director of the National Telephone Company, was found shot through the head in the hills outside San Sebastian.—Reuters

**Attempt to right capsized oil rig starts today**

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

The Alexander Kielland, the oil rig which capsized in Norwegian waters with the loss of 123 lives in March, is expected to be righted next week.

All preliminary work to stabilise the remaining four legs of the rig has been completed. Computer-controlled ballasting to raise the Kielland over gradually will begin tomorrow and is expected to be completed within seven days.

The 10,000 tonne rig, which has been towed to Stavanger, has had 375 buoyancy bags, each with a displacement of five tonnes, attached to it. The

## OVERSEAS

## Church ready to help Polish authorities keep national stability

From Deesa Trevisan  
Warsaw, Oct 23

Assurances of constructive cooperation between the Polish Communist Party and the Roman Catholic Church in the interests of Poland's internal peace and security were expressed at a meeting yesterday between Cardinal Wyszyński, the Polish Primate, and Mr Stanisław Kański, the party leader.

It comes only a few days after the meeting in Poland of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers and on the eve of the Warsaw district court hearing, which again decided on the formal registration of Solidarnosc, the independent union.

The Catholic church has given its unequivocal support to the workers in their demands as well as to the independent unions, but it has also urged them to work.

The authorities publicly recognised this as a positive reaction, reflecting concern for the nation and the stability of the country, which is of common interest to all.

A brief statement published at the end of yesterday's meeting said that good relations between the authorities and the church are of great importance to domestic peace and in the interests of the country's security.

Poland's population of 36 million is overwhelmingly Catholic and in the present situation, when the church needs to regain its credibility, the church's authority is clearly what counts.

On most occasions it was the church's voice to which the people listened in times of crisis and turmoil. On this occasion also the church has assumed irresponsibility and taken the line that at the present juncture it is necessary to calm down and consolidate the workers' gains. The church was obviously aware of the dangers if tension was perpetuated.

No one here concealed the fact that Poland's allies, while accepting the Polish leadership's political arguments in

favour of reform, are sceptical about its effects.

Fears that this might affect the country's stability are obvious. This is, therefore, a crucial moment for Poland, as the agreements are beginning to be implemented and the country enters a new stage.

This is why the registration of Solidarnosc has become of great importance as the delays increase the risk of new labour problems. Tomorrow, the Warsaw district court, and representatives of the church's coordinating committee, headed by Mr Lech Wałęsa, will meet in an attempt to find a compromise.

The authorities are contesting the statutes and insisting on explicit recognition of the party's leading role, pointing out the union's commitment in the agreement signed in Gdańsk and elsewhere. Union experts, however, say the explicit pledge to work within the constitution covers this point. There is a good chance of the issue being settled.

New problems are brewing with railway workers in Wrocław pressing the authorities for several hours this morning demanding a wage increase of 750 zloties (£11). When the strike threatened to spread to the afternoon shift, Mr Walesa intervened and asked the workers to suspend action while negotiations with the minister went on.

Workers in the big Ursus tractor plant in Warsaw stopped work for several hours this morning demanding a wage increase of 750 zloties (£11).

When the strike threatened to spread to the afternoon shift, Mr Walesa intervened and asked the workers to suspend action while negotiations with the minister went on.

The Government is prepared to meet the demand only half way, pleading for understanding because it simply cannot increase wages at the present difficult time. Already about 10 million workers have received increases which the Government had hoped to award in gradual stages until next summer.

## S African opposition party fails to take seat

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Oct 23

The opposition Progressive Party (PPF) today failed in its attempt to capture the East London (North) constituency for Poland, as the agreements are beginning to be implemented and the country enters a new stage.

The seat was held by the New Republic Party (NRP), which polled 5,135 votes. The

remains of the old United Party (UP) candidate, Mr John Maleolam, who caused the by-election by resigning the seat after leaving the NRP to join the PPF earlier this year, won 3,783 votes.

Although the size of the NRP's majority was reduced, the result was a severe disappointment to the PPF, particularly as it came only a month after the PPF failed to capture the Simonskloof constituency from the ruling National Party.

Mr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, the PPF leader, attempted to place the best interpretation on the results, pointing out that his party had increased its support both in Simonskloof and East London.

However, party officials have conceded that the PPF's decision to boycott the new President's Council together with the Government's own cautious reformist policies are making it increasingly difficult for the party to win over voters. This point was emphasized today by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, who said the result was a rejection of "leftist radicalism".

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## American commentary

Patrick Brogan

## Period of paralysis in Washington foreseen

On Tuesday week, Americans will elect a Vice-President, 34 Senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives.

They will also elect a number of governors and state legislators in a number of states and a vast variety of other officials.

Everyone, of course, pays most attention to the presidential election, but whoever wins that contest will have to cope with a new Congress, and it is possible to foresee already a period of total paralysis.

The Republicans are going to pick up enough seats, particularly in the Senate, to frustrate Mr Carter completely, if he wins, but not enough to enable Mr Reagan to govern effectively, if he should win.

Members of the House have two-year terms, and therefore spend most of their time, particularly in their first few terms, running for re-election. Senators have six-year terms, and a third of the Senate is elected every two years.

In 1978, 20 new Senators were elected, including one woman, Mrs Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican from Kansas, the first woman to be elected on her own. The others had been members of their husbands' congressional delegations. Two Senators up for re-election were defeated, three in primaries, seven in the general election.

This time four Senators have been defeated in their primaries and there is a good chance that even more incumbents will lose their seats than last time. Only five are retiring voluntarily. There will be more women and fewer Jews (and Japanese Americans will still have 3 per cent of the Senate). It will, at all events, be a more conservative assembly.

In the House, members have usually assumed that their tenure will be much more firmly secured than that of Senators. The chairman of a number of important committees have discovered to their horror that this may no longer be true. Mr Al Ullman, chairman of the Ways and Means committee, has to fight for his life to hold

## US Elections

his seat in Oregon. Mr Jim Wright, majority leader and second in the hierarchy in the House, is in deep trouble in Texas, and so are Mr Thomas Foley, chairman of agriculture, and Mr Morris Udall, member of the House of Representatives and chairman of the Interior, in Arizona.

The Republicans are not going to win control of the House of Representatives, the present line-up is 273 Democrats, 159 Republicans, with three vacant seats, all formerly held by Democrats. About 30 Democratic seats are in serious danger to Republicans, and about 10 Republican seats might be lost; the Republicans might make a net gain of more than 20, but need 39 to win control.

The new House will be more conservative than the old, and even more difficult to deal with, wherever wins the White House. The young hawks who swept into the House in 1974 and 1976 are settling down, but are far from sinking into the ways of party discipline.

In the Senate, Republicans need a net gain of 10 seats to win, and have little chance of doing that. They are going to lose a few seats—Oklahoma, New York, and possibly Pennsylvania—to balance their expected victories in South Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Colorado, Florida, and perhaps one or two other states.

The change will be dramatic, all the same. The loss of such prominent Democratic liberals as Senators McGovern, Church, and Culver who, if they lose, will all be replaced by deeply reactionary Republicans, will change things profoundly. A victory for Miss Elizabeth Holtzman in New York will not tip the balance back.

## Mr Reagan hurt by warmonger taunt

From David Gross  
Washington, Oct 23

President Carter has probably increased his chances of victory in the November 4 election by exploiting the war-and-peace issue against his Republican opponent. Mr Reagan acknowledged as much in an interview with the *Washington Post* published today.

If fact, he would try to make me the issue of the campaign and he obviously did by using this "warmongering charge", the Republican candidate said. But he added that he was confident of turning the campaign back to what he felt was the main issue of the campaign, Mr Carter's "record of failure", when he debates with the President on television next Tuesday.

During a day of campaigning in the South yesterday, Mr Reagan promised that he would eschew comments on the fate of the 52 American hostages in Iran during the final stages of the election campaign.

On Tuesday, he said, that the continued captivity of the hostages was a "humiliation and disgrace" to the United States. Mr Carter countered this allegation by accusing his opponent of breaking an earlier pledge not to make a "political football" out of the issue of the hostages.

Instead Mr Reagan continued to pound away at Mr Carter's record with claims that "the man who's asking for four more years isn't competent to do the job".

Mr Carter, who was also campaigning in his native South, yesterday showed no signs of dropping the personal attacks on his opponent which he has usually assumed that their tenure will be much more firmly secured than that of Senators. The chairman of a number of important committees have discovered to their horror that this may no longer be true. Mr Al Ullman, chairman of the Ways and Means committee, has to fight for his life to hold

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## Three executed in Mozambique

Lisbon, Oct 23.—The Mozambique Government announced that three men tried for espionage and military sabotage had been executed last week by firing squad, bringing to 39 the number of executions in the last 15 months.

Lifting of the rig is a joint venture of the British group SD Marine of Southampton, and Nicoverken Norge AG, a Norwegian ship repair company. The insurance value of the rig, which is expected to be back in service again, is £75 million.

All preliminary work to stabilise the remaining four legs of the rig has been completed. Computer-controlled ballasting to raise the Kielland over gradually will begin tomorrow and is expected to be completed within seven days.

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Uganda  
missions  
taken  
prisoner

## OVERSEAS Ban on Hongkong jobs for unregistered Chinese immigrants

From Richard Hughes  
Hongkong, Oct 23  
Capitalist Hongkong and  
its urban Chinese are the  
closest foreign relatives. Sir  
Murray MacLehose, the Governor,  
delivered his address to the  
Colonial Government (legis-  
lative council), proclaiming, as  
predicted, that no longer will  
illegal Chinese immigrants be  
permitted to remain in Hong-  
kong.

In December, 1974, Hongkong  
reluctantly ceased to be a sanctu-  
ary for all Chinese refugees,  
who managed to escape com-  
munist guards and cross the bor-  
der into Hongkong.

Since then, illegal immigrants  
who managed to "touch base"  
in urban areas or with friends  
and relatives in Hongkong, after  
masking at both commercial  
and Hongkong armed patrols,  
have been allowed to remain.

This indulgence was abolished  
reluctantly from tonight by  
Hongkong, and illegal immi-  
grants now living in Hongkong  
must seek their identity cards  
and be registered as residents  
before midnight on Sunday.  
Otherwise, they will be forcibly  
deported.

From November 3, it will be  
illegal for Hongkong indus-  
trialists to employ any person with  
an identity card.

Consequently, the Chinese  
authorities, after discussions  
this week with Sir Murray, have  
reinforced their Army patrols.

—Reuter

## Acupuncture criticized by two Chinese professors

Peking, Oct 23.—Anaesthesia  
by acupuncture, used on two  
million people since the 1950s  
and one of the few surviving  
practices of Maoist China, came  
in for severe criticism today.

The Shanghai newspaper,  
*Yenhuabao*, carried denuncia-  
tions by Professor Gang Xichen  
and Professor Tao Naihuan,

both Shanghai doctors, of the  
political use made of the method  
during the Cultural Revolution.

They cast doubt on the  
method and denounced the sur-  
real scenes set up to impress  
foreign visitors. Many doctors  
and patients were forced to use  
acupuncture anaesthesia in  
ast, they said, employing  
the enormous courage" re-  
quired from many patients who  
even though in pain did not  
cry out "because of the  
political necessities of the  
time".

Some patients were even  
ordered to shout political slo-  
ans, they said. Foreigners  
were able to see open heart  
surgery using anaesthesia by  
acupuncture during which the  
patient "read" aloud from the  
Little Red Book of quotations  
from Chairman Mao.

This is the first time that  
anaesthesia induced by  
acupuncture has been attacked  
in this way in the official press.

The two professors said that in  
their hospital, which they did  
not name, nearly 30,000 opera-  
tions were carried out under  
acupuncture anaesthesia be-  
tween 1969 and 1977 with 50-

to 82 per cent success rate.

However, in many cases pain  
did not entirely disappear, they  
said.

The two Shanghai doctors  
said chemical anaesthesia had  
been used in many operations  
in the past, while the needles  
had been stuck into the patient  
for the benefit of the audience.

Some patients were even  
ordered to shout political slo-

ans for the benefit of the audience.

—Agence France-Presse.

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## THE ARTS

## Hinge and Bracket

## Globe

## Ned Chaillet

Shaftesbury Avenue is a long way from the chill Edinburgh hall where, I first saw Hinge and Bracket some years ago. In those days they offered a special reward for audiences who made the trek to their evening of Gilbert and Sullivan and reminiscences, and it included a warming toast with glasses of sherry, the natural tipple for the after ages of Patrick Fyfe and George Logan.

The sherry is there still at the Globe Theatre, but it is confined to the stage and consumed only by Dr Hinge and Dame Hilda sing together at moments, offering a duet version of "Three Little Maids from School", for instance. But despite the firmness of Dame Hilda's unclassifiable voice, the mood is in their conversation.

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**Kid Creole**  
Palace, Paris

## Richard Williams

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**ECO/Kraemer**  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

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Palace, Paris

## Richard Williams

Pop music may have been born free, but it was quickly enslaved by commercial interests; perhaps we should not be surprised that genuinely original vision are treated with the utmost suspicion by those cautious people who determine what the public shall hear or records and on the radio. That is the explanation for the prolonged obscurity of August Darnell, who has a new story and has been struggling to tell it for several years.

Darnell and his brother, Stony Browder, are the American composers behind Dr Buzzard's Original Savannah Band, whose three albums contain an audacious conglomeration of several different forms of black dance music. In this synthesis, which seems to take place in some space-age Cotton Club, we can hear the sounds of Harlem, Havana, Haili, Kingston and Rio: a jumpy

saxophone section collides with a reggae bass line, a Dixieland two-beat bass line supports a silky samba, a woodoo chant is turned into a Manhattan disco song. This orchestral cocktail is spiked with melodies which strike off at unexpected angles from their harmonic structures, sometimes







## Water: paying for every drop

In a country so constantly wet, and so unhappily aware of its rain, the idea of having to pay for water is hard to accept. It is not made easier by water charges: that have risen by 170 per cent in six years, not by the promise of steeper charges to come.

Yesterday, the National Water Council published a paper outlining the pros and cons of a scheme that has rapidly been gaining favour among rate payers and water authorities alike: optional metering of water consumption so that as with telephone, gas and electricity, households for the first time would pay precisely for what they use.

Until 1973, water was a hidden cost, concealed together with sewerage somewhere in rates, alongside schools and policemen. It was provided by a system that had grown up haphazardly since Victorian days with 157 water boards, 29 river authorities and 1,393 sewage disposal authorities.

Then Parliament decided on a thorough reorganization of the water industry (the most complete monopoly of all), merging existing arrangements into 10 water authorities, responsible for water from the time rain falls to the time it reaches the sea, headed it by a Water Council, and removed water charges from the general rates. The result was "direct billing" and a painful realization that water, the most basic and essential supply of all, had to be paid for.

Today, the average household, using 10,000 gallons per person per year, spends approximately £1 a week on water and sewerage. (Supplying water and taking it away costs about the same: the total bill for England and Wales is £2,000m a year.) But there are some, insane anomalies: Welsh consumers pay more for their own water than the Birmingham consumers who also tap and drink it.

Water charges now are related directly toutable value of property, with the effect that elderly widows pay exactly the same as families with five children. With water costs reasonable, the question of fair billing might never have arisen, but by April 1981 the authorities are to charge with subsidy the precise cost of serving industry and households. This means that offices and factories will pay less, and domestic consumers will make up the gap.

Metering, as an idea, seems not just fair, but logical. But there are problems. There is the cost of installing the meter, assessed at somewhere between £40 and £60, and the standing charge of about £12 a year. (The price for installing meters in every household has been estimated at £1,500m.)

There is the overall increase in price that even partial metering would lead to: estimated in the Water Council's document at two per cent if one in 10 houses opted for metering. And there is the fact that the very households that would best be served by meters might be those least able to afford installing them.

What concerns organizations like the National Consumer Council, who have long argued that the consumer is ill represented when it comes to stating preferences over, say, fluoridization, hardness, or clarity of water, or quantities of bacteria, is that enough time should be given to studying the alternatives, so that people can really work out how much a meter would benefit them. And the organization to whom that sulfation paper he's gone can have a chance to debate whether charge by floor area, number of bedrooms or water fittings—ever a flat reduced rate for single people—might not in the end be a fairer solution.

Caroline Moorehead

Charging households for water, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, 1.

Geoffrey Smith

## The polite way to pick a leader

Will this be the last well-mannered election for the leadership of the Labour Party? To put it like this may seem extraordinary. Good temper and tolerance are not the qualities most frequently associated with the Labour Party at this time. The bitterness is now worse than it has ever been, but Labour usually parades its conflicts and animosities in public more than any other party.

Yet its leadership elections have been relatively subdued occasions. That was certainly the case when Mr Callaghan was chosen in 1976 and so far it has been true this time as well.

Why is this? It is not because good fellowship among the candidates exceeds the sense of rivalry. Mr Healey's personal style, quite apart from his policies, makes him disliked on the left. Mr Silk's arouses animosity on the right. Mr Shore is furious with Mr Foot for coming late into the contest after Mr Shore was under the impression that he had been given an assurance that Mr Foot would stay out. Yet none of this has emerged in abuse between the candidates.

Mr Healey has allowed himself a swipe at Mr Benn, but Mr Benn is not a candidate this time and in any case is so unpopular at the moment among most of his parliamentary colleagues that Mr Healey can attack him with impunity.

But this is the exception. Under the present rules the very nature of the contest ensures that bad manners would be bad tactics. It would be different even this time if the Labour Coordinating Committee had its way and most Labour MPs dutifully took their ballot papers along to their constituencies to be marked according to the wishes of the general-management committee. But most MPs are in no mood to accept such dictation.

So the candidates know that they must appeal to the parliamentary party—a restricted group with close knowledge over the years of the peculiarities of an active campaign is therefore necessary, and a remonstrant campaign would be positively self-destructive. Direct personal assaults on other candidates would be more likely to rebound on the assailant.

Signals may need to be sent, but with

such an electorate they can be sent



Mr Peter Shore and Mr Michael Foot: the animosity does not show.

discreetly in the sure knowledge that the message will be received. In this election Mr Healey has found it necessary to assume the right and the more robust centre of the party that he would fight for the rights of the parliamentary party. He has done so by saying that if he is elected he will remain leader for as long as the parliamentary party wishes—which is an oblique way of declaring that if the electoral college then chooses somebody else he would be prepared to defy it so long as he has the support of a majority of MPs.

That signal could have been put in much more provocative terms, but Mr Healey is so far as possible following the example of Mr Callaghan in 1976. Mr Callaghan then fought an anti-campaign in the sense that he gave no interviews, engaged in no arguments, and waited in dignified silence for the verdict of the parliamentary party.

The campaign for the Labour leadership, three months later, was very

different. It was notable, particularly after Mr Callaghan's unhappy experience at Blackpool, simply to try to keep the election with the help of a few friendly union bosses. He will feel it necessary to get round to see as many party members as possible, to explain to those who do not already know them, the logic of his programme, and to have been confirmed by them that his policies and his leadership are indeed what some of the right-wing unions want. A number of suggestions are being circulated for discussion within the party at the moment, but opinion has not yet settled on any one of them. It is too soon therefore to predict what will happen at the special conference in January, but the purpose of having an electoral college is to give a direct voice to the party in the country. If this is done to any significant extent the nature of future election campaigns is likely to be very different.

No future front-runner will dare to sit back waiting quietly for the victory bell to ring. He will not, even dare

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THE OLD MEN OF MOSCOW

The Soviet hierarchy is very resistant to change. The top men form a club of elderly comrades with a strong interest in supporting each other. They all know that change once started is difficult to stop and is liable to make victims of those who propose it. Below them younger men, may yearn for power but if they push they are liable to be cut down and to have their chances destroyed for ever. No one distinguishes too clearly between ambition and conspiracy.

High officials in the administrative apparatus also have a vested interest in continuing Change at the top, but mean-change far down the line, with privileges falling away like autumn leaves as new loyalties come into play. Hence, therefore, to sustain even an ailing gerontocracy than to face the long and unpredictable struggle for power which inevitably follows change at the top.

This must help to explain why Mr Kosygin has kept his job for so long after his health had failed, and why even now, for the moment, he remains in the Politburo. It is a long time since he visibly wielded any effective power as prime minister. In the 1960s he did sit in foreign affairs, and in the same period he had his struggles with Mr Brezhnev over the economy. He's pleaded for light industry and, behind

strategic reforms but was rebuffed by Mr Brezhnev, who accused him of neglecting agriculture, thus causing the leading role of the party in public administration, and underestimating the possibilities of catching up with the United States by mobilizing party initiative. The reforms faded away and Mr Kosygin was gradually less in evidence. Power accumulated in the hands of Mr Tikhonov, who, at seventy-five is another member of Mr Brezhnev's circle and cannot be seen as the harbinger of change. There is no sign that the job of prime minister is to be revived. Foreign affairs has been spared, even though ministries under his control have been singled out for blame. One would like to see this as a token of respect for some of Mr Kosygin's ideas in the 1960s which right, and that if they had been implemented things might now be better. Perhaps there is a hint of this in the revised, though not very convincing talk of reform. But the reason for Mr Kosygin's survival is more likely to be found in his colleagues' instinct for self-preservation.

They want to keep the club together, and if possible above criticism. Respect for age, experience and position must be preserved for the sake of all. Blame for shortcomings must, whenever possible, be found further down the line, not in

## BOLD, SPECTACULAR AND PROBABLY SILLY

Mr Heseltine's freeze on capital funds for council housing is a characteristic act, bold, spectacular and more concerned with immediate political effect than with eventual consequences.

Unlike the block grant proposals in his Local Government Bill, however, the freeze need not have any major consequences once its immediate purpose of striking a fresh spasm of dread throughout local government has been accomplished. It would be unwise of Mr Heseltine to let it last long enough to have any direct effects, as these would most probably be harmful.

The succession of growths and prudences from the Department of the Environment in recent months has had, among other purposes, that of diverting attention from the fact that local government has quite regularly managed to respond to appeals for spending cuts more readily than those sectors of public expenditure for which the central Government is more directly responsible. There is strong preliminary evidence that this will be the case again this time. The last ministerial parade from Marsham Street in September was much impaired in dramatic impact, because Mr Heseltine was compelled to admit that, if local revenue

expenditure for the rest of the year followed the pattern of other years, then councils would in fact achieve the savings he had demanded.

On the same occasion, scarcely a month ago, he also made the very sensible and judicious observation that it would be wrong to take action against councils' capital, as opposed to revenue spending, because of the harm that this would do to the construction industry. He had threatened something of the kind in June. It is surprising on the face of it that the state of affairs as it has unfolded in the past month should be so unexpected, as to warrant such a drastic change of opinion. In the nature of things, capital spending is less likely to get out of hand than current spending. Cutting it is also less unpopular, as the heart grieves less to lose tomorrow's services than today's. Most councils have, therefore, been only too ready to concentrate on spending cuts first.

In the present state of the economy it is hard to accuse any minister of being overzealous in the defence of public sector funds. At least the freeze will not do much immediate harm. An interruption in the flow of projects still at the paper stage

## A CONCESSION TO THE IRA

It was in the face of a hunger strike that the government of the day introduced a 'special category' status in 1972 for prisoners in Northern Ireland who were associated with paramilitary organizations of both colours. They were not obliged to wear prison clothing, they did not have to work, and they lived in compounds not cells. That mistaken concession, "political status" in fact, though not in name, was withdrawn in the case of all prisoners convicted of offences committed after March 1, 1976. Many of those who would have qualified for the concession had it not been withdrawn have insisted upon it by refusing to wear prison clothes, and therefore any clothes, and to do the work prescribed. For that they have incurred the loss of all but the statutory privileges. Later they took to fouling their cells as a form of protest, creating revolting conditions for themselves and for the prison staff who cope with them.

It is in the face of another hunger strike, due to start on Monday, that the Government has now yielded to the first demand of the men "on the

blanket" that they may wear their own clothes (subject to approval). The protesters are being given the substance of what they want in that respect, but not the form. They are not to be treated in a special way, as they have demanded, since this change about clothing is a change in the general prison rules in force throughout Northern Ireland and applies to all prisoners alike. Nevertheless it is clearly their protest and the pressure mounted outside on their behalf that have brought about the change.

A sensible concession, or glacial victory?

The move is part of what has been recommended by Cardinal O'Fiaich and other church dignitaries who have been in touch with both sides calling for flexibility. Since something like a negotiation has been going on, the Government has presumably established that this should be enough to 'stopper' the hunger strike. There are plain advantages in that. The 'dirty protest' in the block of the Maze prison has been a useful focus for Irish hatred of British force in the land; it is also a swelling theme of IRA propaganda, especially in the United States and especially

about the two evenings. And it is my belief that the evenings long ago ceased to be 'newspapers' that mattered to Londoners.

They have ignored, for instance, the massive amount of legislation passed by Parliament in recent years, and the way, more often than not through local government, that affects people's lives. They have failed to inform, except superficially, on the problems of rates, housing, health, planning, education and the social services. They have lost touch with the grassroots of living and working in the metropolis and, unlike local papers, have become expendable.

And they have failed to get involved. Take just one topical example, important to north Londoners—the future of Alexandra Palace following the disastrous fire. Our columns have been filled with the furious debate that is now going on in the evening papers. They have even been scooped by *Thames Television*, which has come up with the enterprising idea of putting plans for the replacement of the Palace out to competition and monitoring the reactions to them.

At the other end of the spectrum, what of the *Evening Standard*, which vaunted coverage of the arts? Although perhaps an exception, my newspaper, on average most weeks of the year reviews more books

## An evening paper's role

From the Editor of the *Hampstead and Highgate Express*

Sir, While no journalist likes to see the death of a newspaper, Mr Charles Winton, in your columns (October 17), highlighted some of the reasons why, inevitably, we are in future to have only one London evening newspaper, namely the *Evening Standard*.

One makes for me two particularly orte points. One is whether the London evenings have done their job properly and if they are a sufficiently vital part of Londoners' lives. The other is the fact that the *Evening Standard* and the *Evening Standard* appear to have geared them to reaching commuters who are going out of central London weekdays rather than to the indigenous population.

At first point the answer has as the dramatically declining circulation of the two evenings we proved. Yet, at the same time, the *Evening Standard* has maintained more basically, a thriving local

concerns, art shows, and gramophone records than the *Evening Standard* has ever contemplated. Only in its coverage of the theatre does the *Evening Standard* excel.

As to the second point on seeking commuters as their mainstay, have not the two evenings made themselves less attractive to advertisers, especially the major West End stores? Their commuter readers, certainly in north London, live nearer to Brent Cross than Oxford Street and, as a recent GLC survey has shown, prefer to go to Brent Cross.

The stores—and to a certain extent London's entertainments industry—really need to attack the market more on their doorstep where, it appears, readership of the evening newspaper is lowest. For a trip into London from the out-of-town, thanks to transport costs, an expensive outing, whether to shopping or to the theatre and cinema.

I hope very much that the merger of the two evening newspapers will succeed but, Mr. Winton, have doubts whether putting two minus together will make a plus.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD ISAACMAN,  
Hampstead and Highgate Express,  
Perris Court,  
Hampstead High Street, NW3.  
October 17.

## Pure and undefiled

From Dr G. Verma

Sir, May I add two comments to Philip Howard's apt and learned discussion (October 21) of the Pope's misuse of the word "adultery"?

Firstly, the English meaning of the term, based ultimately on a Christian definition, differs from the Hebrew notion in one important respect. In Old Testament law, the sole criterion of adultery is the status of the woman (married or betrothed). A married man misbehaving with an unmarried, unbetrothed or divorced woman is not an adulterer.

Secondly, the prophetic identification of adultery with adultery derives from the symbolism depicting the Covenant as a marriage between God and the daughter of Zion (see for example Hosea 2:16; Jeremiah 3:16). Within such a context, reference in Jeremiah 3:9 to "Israel's adulterous whorings after stocks and stones" makes sense.

Yours sincerely,  
GEZA VERMAS,  
The Oriental Institute,  
Pusey Lane,  
Oxford.  
October 21.

## Mental confusion

From Professor M. R. Olsen

Sir, The plea made by the Secretary of State to health authorities to close large mental hospitals as soon as possible made at the annual conference of MIND and reported in your paper today (October 21), is dangerously superficial.

There is no doubt of the magnitude of the problems presented by the large numbers of psychiatric patients inappropriately occupying beds some for the greater part of their adult lives. However, it is a sad fact that nearly a quarter of a century after the Report of the Royal Commission on the Law Relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency there is no comprehensive system of community care for the majority of the mentally disturbed.

Instead, it is a principle which remains in our imagination to inspire future ideals to support our policy that what the Secretary of State is proposing is in the best interests of all, to deaden our anxieties about the hurt that their policies may cause patients and their families; and to help us bear the fact that in spite of the political acceptance of the necessity for the

provision of comprehensive community care services, the need remains,

in the words of Barbara Castle, when she was Secretary of State for Social Services (in the White Paper *Better Services for the Mentally Ill*), "simply a statement of objectives".

Numerous estimates show that the mentally disturbed are discriminated against in the allocation of community resources. For example, Mr Uring, Chief Social Work Services Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security, last year reported that forecasts for local authority personal social services expenditure for 1979-80 showed that only 1.2 per cent was to be allocated to the care of the mentally disturbed in the community.

There is no doubt of the personal, social and economic gains to be made by an effective community care programme. But this policy is dependent upon adequate financing and the development of a range of community-based resources, without which discharged patients and those with whom they live will continue to experience undue hardship.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY G. BUTTON,  
7 Ambrose Court,  
Grange Road,  
Cambridge.  
October 22.

July 15



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Television view of brain death

From Lord Hatch of Lissbury

Sir, The degree of disquiet and dissension within the medical profession about the criteria for assessing brain damage revealed in your correspondence columns appears to provide very adequate justification for the *Panorama* programme on the subject. The BBC does not mount such programmes except in a very serious vein: "entertainment" and "sensationalism" are not part of this serious intent.

From the Chairman of the EBC

Sir, It seems that some members of the Labour Party, enthusiastically encouraged by the media, are engaged in the canonization of their next leader. Surely this attitude is entirely foreign to the principles of socialism. Does not the socialist philosophy stem from cooperation, equality, communal decision-making? Are not deference, elation,

accept a leader unacceptable to itself imposed from outside Parliament. This view is, as far as I can judge, held by all four candidates for the leadership.

Why not therefore accept a two-tier system with a national party leader based on a much wider franchise and retaining the present method of electing the parliamentary leader?

This would have some similarities with the procedures of the West German SPD. Dr Willi Brandt, as national party leader, works in close harmony with the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. The two roles are different yet mutually supportive. The national chairman has an integrative role, promoting morale and unity within the party. The Chancellor has an equally important role which assesses party opinion in the context of the wider needs of the country, and of West Germany's place in world affairs. He and his Cabinet, for instance, must necessarily assume day-to-day responsibilities in the crucial areas of foreign policy and defence.

This system has proved effective in West Germany and has harnessed the capabilities of two outstanding European statesmen.

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## Stock Exchange Prices

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begun, Oct 13. Dealings End, Today. Contango Day, Oct 27. Settlement Day, Nov 3.

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.





## US Steel prices up in November

United States Steel Corporation, only three weeks after winning higher base prices for imported steel, announced its own price increases effective November 1, 1980, and January 1, 1981.

The United States' largest steel maker said in Pittsburgh it will boost prices for bar, rod, wire and semi-finished products from November 1. The prices of sheet, strip and coil products will rise on January 1.

No specific prices were disclosed, only that the November 1 increases probably would boost steel revenue about 1 per cent, while the January 1 increases would raise revenue about 3½ per cent.

The increases come in some of the industry's weakest markets. Sales of sheet and strip products have picked up in recent weeks, but demand still is not strong enough to eliminate discounting, although buyers acknowledge that the margin of discounting is narrowing.

### Third World shipping

The international conference on the development of maritime transportation in the Third World ended a two-day debate in Cairo by calling for international cooperation in financing and establishing joint maritime companies. It also recommended guarantees of fair shares to companies transporting goods to and from developing countries.

### Brazilian oil deal

Senator Antonio Delfim Neto, Brazilian planning minister, has signed a financial agreement with the French Government involving a credit line of \$500m (£206m). The funds will be used for the purchase by Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil and gas corporation, of offshore drilling platforms and other oil equipment from France.

### Sakhalin oil find

Sakhalin Oil Development Cooperation Company of Japan said in Tokyo it has discovered an oil deposit capable of producing 330,000 barrels of crude oil a day in an area about 40 kilometres off the northeastern tip of the Soviet island of Sakhalin.

### Cars for Norway

Japanese private cars took 42.4 per cent of the Norwegian market in September, down from 45.4 per cent in August, but still well above the 37.1 per cent average for the first six months, according to figures released in Oslo.

### £1m Fiat strike fund

The strike fund collected throughout Italy for workers involved in the recent Fiat dispute has passed 2,000m lire (£1m) and money is still coming in, Signor Pio Galli, a metalworkers' union leader said in Rome.

Securines analysts on Wall

Street were surprised at the price that Times-Mirror has paid.

In the first nine months of this year the Denver Post company recorded earnings of just \$23,000. The company does some outside printing work and it is believed that the newspaper itself has been losing money this year.

The Post, an afternoon paper, is crammed with local advertisements, where short news stories are often difficult to find between multitudes of bargain offers.

Afternoon newspapers in the United States have long faced big problems, squeezed by expanding local television news programmes and rival morning newspapers. Times-Mirror has been expanding rapidly in recent years and it has the experience, money, and staff possibly to strengthen the Post.

The main Times-Mirror newspaper is the Los Angeles Times, which has improved in quality tremendously in the past few years to the point where it is arguably among the top handful of quality United States newspapers. Times-Mirror has strengthened the New York daily that now has a circulation of more than 500,000.

Clearly Times-Mirror is taking a long-term view of its new acquisition. The high price it has paid reflects the fact that Denver is one of the fastest growing cities in America, for a reported £13m.

The 'Denver Post' sold for \$96m		
From Frank Vogl US Economics Correspondent Washington, October 23		
Group profit	5,600	6,521
Taxation	16,400	18,109
Provision for deferred taxation no longer required	5,600	4,710
Profit after taxation	10,800	11,933
It is anticipated that a proportion of the tax charge for the year will again be deferred.		

**Dividend**  
The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3.6p per Ordinary Stock Unit (absorbing £2,369,000) payable on 15th December, 1980, to stockholders on the register on 13th November, 1980. This dividend, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to 51429p gross and compares with the 1979 interim dividend of 42857p gross.

If the above profit estimate is realised, the Board intends to recommend payment of a final dividend of 4.8p, equivalent to 6.857p gross, making a total for the year of 12.0p gross. This will represent an increase of 20.0% on the 1979 total distribution of 10.0p.

**Points from Mr. T. P. H. Aitken's Review**  
The year to date has been a reasonable one despite the fact that the efforts being made to reduce inflation, to which I referred in my last Annual Statement, have had a deflating effect on the economies of the main countries in which we trade.

Cocoa, coffee, rubber and sugar have been active, but chemicals have been dull, largely owing to the world recession. However, there are now signs that this side of the business is slowly picking up. Our associate companies continue to trade well and the commission business is making progress.

The mix of interests that we have has once again proved our ability to move positively. We face the future with great confidence but realising fully that we have much work to do.

**Gill & Duffus Group**  
St. Dunstan's House, 201 Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW.  
Tel: 01-407 7050 Telex: 887588.  
Overseas Subsidiaries in:  
Accra, Bahia, Chicago, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, New York, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore, Sydney, Takoradi, Toronto.

Radical changes likely under proposals to shift costs to employers

## Training boards in the melting pot

Radical changes in the scope and composition of the 24 industrial training boards seem inevitable if proposals to shift the total cost to industry expected to be outlined in the Queen's Speech next month are implemented. Reaction from employers to the recommendations of a tripartite Manpower Services Commission review body indicate that they will not pay more to keep all the boards operating.

Comments by the Confederation of British Industry, are among those submitted by more than 300 organisations to the MSC and due to be forwarded to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, next week. The TUC, which was also represented on the review body, supports the change in funding but wants new legislation to strengthen the powers of the industrial training boards to increase levies to cover administration costs.

Most independent industrial relations organisations, however, appear to accept the disappearance of many of the training boards as inevitable. A submission by the Institute of Personnel Management, which represents more than 20,000 individuals, is believed to favour the MSC replacing the statutory training board framework with voluntary organisations even if this means the unions no longer being involved.

The institute suggests that the cost of voluntary training arrangements, which already cover more than 33 per cent of United Kingdom workers, could be met by fees. Such bodies could then concentrate on specific training problems rather than,

Employers are believed likely to resist such a suggestion on the grounds that companies themselves are too uncertain of future manning levels to be able, even if willing, to supply the necessary information. At the same time they want training procedures to be made more flexible so that skills can be transferred across the industry where necessary.

The Machine Tools Trades Association suggests that the training board system could be reduced to a regional or

sub-regional activity, reporting through a single administrative headquarters. This would link the activities of jobcentres with those of training boards.

Mr. Pitman, chairman of the British Printing Industries Federation's education and training committee, echoed the views of most other individual employers' organisations when he said that the transfer of funding should be opposed "not only because it was proposed at a time when industry could least afford it, but also because of its inflationary effect".

Mr. Pitman calculated that the training levy on printing industries would have to be increased from 0.9 per cent of payroll in the year 2000, which is inevitable in the absence of a cash trove so vast as to make all other anomalies of those means tame. It is also believed that the Sefton committee has theoretical attractions but, if it is also widely believed that the visible tidal energies of the Severn Estuary are in part the product of a resonance set up by the change in the estuary's shape, it is not clear what the effects of such a change would be.

Employers' organisations are prepared to accept the transfer of funding provided it is phased in and gradually extended over a longer period than that envisaged by the review body. This suggested that the proposed new arrangements should be in operation by the beginning of the 1982-83 financial year.

Employers argue that this is too soon for a realistic assessment to be made of the contribution of individual boards.

Patricia Tisdall

## Germans hope for compromise in row over EEC steel quotas

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, Oct 23

A special meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers will be held in Luxembourg on Saturday to discuss the European Commission's plans to impose compulsory production limits for steel.

Shortly before the announcement in Brussels today, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Industry Commissioner, gave warning that continuing uncertainty over the fate of the Commission's plans was leading to fallout in new orders.

Viscount Davignon said the Germans seem keen to have specific steel for which demand is still fairly strong taken out of the Commission's scheme. They are, however, disappointed at the few figures provided by the Commission concerning the planned quota levels.

Viscount Davignon said the Commission would not be providing specific figures until the production quota scheme was agreed. He indicated that the Bonn government should be given a fairly clear idea on Saturday as to the impact the proposals will have on Germany's steel industry.

The German Iron and Steel Association said it was confident a compromise could be found.

## The 'Denver Post' sold for \$96m

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, October 23

The Denver Post, once one of the wildest newspapers in the "Wild West" but in recent years one of America's dullest dailies, has been bought for \$96m (about £39.5m) by the Times-Mirror group of Califormia.

The Post, an afternoon paper, is crammed with local advertisements, where short news stories are often difficult to find between multitudes of bargain offers.

Afternoon newspapers in the United States have long faced big problems, squeezed by expanding local television news programmes and rival morning

## Employers may block engineering watchdog

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Growing opposition to the proposed structure of a new engineering watchdog body is emerging within the Engineering Employers' Federation. A federation meeting, to be held next week, is expected to raise doubts, especially about the idea of creating the body by adding a supplementary charter to that of the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Although the supplementary charter would change the CEO's name to the British Engineering Council and its structure, it is feared that the federation that it may mean the engineering professions could dominate the new body to the detriment of direct industry representation.

The federation has been arguing strongly for a heavy representation for industry interests on the new body and the Department of Industry is anxious to establish its constitution before the end of the year. The federation wants to see industrialists making up at least half the new body's governing council.

The profession is now arguing that since a number of industrialists are also chartered engineers it may be possible to achieve a more balanced representation of professionals on the new body but also ensure a strong industrial voice without unduly increasing numbers on the governing council.

The federation's plan, expected to go to the department next week, could encounter difficulties from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry. He envisaged a new body set up under its own Royal Charter. It is being argued that changing the much-criticised EEC with a supplementary charter would be merely cosmetic.

The profession is now arguing that since a number of industrialists are also chartered engineers it may be possible to achieve a more balanced representation of professionals on the new body but also ensure a strong industrial voice without unduly increasing numbers on the governing council.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

ICI after  
the loss

It was a case of picking through the debris of ICI's third-quarter figures yesterday (which had been advanced by a month in view of their awfulness) looking for evidence of whether the situation is as bad—or worse—than had been anticipated.

In the event, a loss of £10m, including exchange rate losses of £5m against a profit of £155m in the same quarter last year, did not surprise the stock market, though it is the first time that ICI has returned, a quarterly deficit. The shares gained 8p to 330p.

This prospect had been well rehearsed, most recently when the group disclosed the extent of its losses in fibres. The underlying problems of lack of demand in chemicals and textiles, made acute by de-stocking during the period, and the collapse of export margins caused by the strength of sterling, are well understood. Against these, even a buoyant contribution from the Nitrin Field (£24m net) could not prevent an overall loss.

What encouraged the market was that ICI still intends maintaining the dividend this year, and that, despite the view that the trading trend remains largely unaltered.

So far this year the deterioration has been dramatic: quarter-by-quarter, profits have been £152m, £72m, and now the £10m loss.

The market now has to take a view about whether this drift has been arrested and to take account of the longer-term effects on the business. ICI will make provisions associated with the contraction of its activities of £150m this year; capital spending sanctions are expected to be around half the £550m of 1979.

The optimistic assumption is that conditions will be improving markedly by the first quarter of next year. If anything happens to suggest that is wrong—and by implication that a yield of nearly 10 per cent is anything other than real support for the shares at this level could fall away.

**• The absence of an MLR cut had the predictable effect on sterling yesterday. The dollar rate closed 75 points up, at \$2.4425 and the pound's trade-weighted index rising 13 to 78.6. If there was any comfort to be had it was perhaps that the sellers were quick to come in above the \$2.45 level.**

**Today promises to be tight again in money markets with a £425m call on Exchequer 2 per cent 1998.** **A** **But the hope presumably must be that things may start to become a little easier next week, though with so much official help to be unwound, easier is very much a relative term at the moment.**

Meanwhile, institutional investment figures for the April-June quarter point to a building of institutional liquidity and further investment overseas. Investment in overseas equities was, in fact, slightly down in the first quarter, but the implication of recent money supply figures would seem to be that the momentum may have been stepped up once more in the third quarter.

Fund managers are probably more confused than ever at the moment as to the medium-term prospects for sterling, but there is certainly no shortage these days of broker advice on international investment and portfolio management.

**Coral**

**Now Bass takes its claim**

Iceland Metropolitan had no sooner decided that it was not worth trying to fight its bid through the Monopolies Commission than it jumps Bass as a suitor for Coral. With much less overlap in their businesses, there seems less danger of this bid being referred. Though there is always the chance that the commission will use the size of assets criteria as an excuse for the more searching look at betting and gaming. Whitehall tankers after.

As it is Bass has been under no pressure to improve on Grand Met's terms, which had already been accepted by more than our-fifths of Coral shareholders as a reasonable solution to the group's problems, and its 6-for-13 share offer is the same as Grand Met's valuing Coral at 98p a share of £824m with Bass shares 5p lower yesterday at 212p.

The bid makes as good financial sense as Grand Met's particularly as Coral's revalued net assets of £848m are 60p in line with its bid value so its £70m of borrowings will not unbalance Bass's gearing.

The all-share offer has probably been damped by the high level of capital spending



Derek Palmer, chairman and chief executive of Bass.

as an outlet for beer sales, where in the light of this year's likely drop in demand Bass could be left with excess capacity, and Coral's Centre Hotels for which Bass has been a long-ruined bidder.

Hotels have so far been a more successful diversification for Bass than other moves away from beer for the rest of the brewers but against that Bass has been one of the purest beer investments, and investors may well look askance at seeing this diluted.

**Gill & Duffus**

**Returning to a growth path**

Despite a year which posed problems in chemicals trading and the Brazilian operations, Gill & Duffus has managed to reverse last year's profit fall and set itself on a growth course again. Estimated group profit at the half-way stage is put at £21m against the actual outturn last year of £20.6m, and if experience is a guide the estimate is conservative.

A return to profit on the United States processing side has helped, and trading in cocoa, coffee and rubber has been good, although cocoa and coffee prices have been depressed. Rubber was particularly successful in the first half, though the results are no where near as good as those returned by Guineas' Pest.

What should give Gill & Duffus a boost in the coming year is expansion into new areas.

The chemicals will pay off when industrial demand picks up, and there are ambitions for financial futures both here and in the United States, which could produce pretax profits up to £25.26m next year.

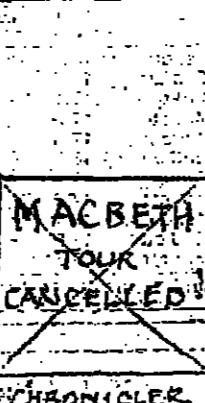
A 20 per cent increase in the dividend in 1980, gross for the year puts the shares at 188p on a 5.3 per cent yield, where they seem fairly valued.

**• Monday's mysterious bidder for Giltspur, where Mr Maxwell Joseph owns a commanding 24 per cent stake, turns out to be the Transport Development Group. The offer, a package of shares and loan stock, is worth around 115p per Giltspur share and has received a less than enthusiastic backing from Mr Joseph who says he will accept it in the absence of anything better.**

**The bid values each Giltspur share at a price of around 11p on a fully-taxed profit for the current year. With the shares standing at 110p, the market clearly does not expect a counter-bidder. This may be wrong. The bid seems reasonable on earnings ground, but it is not far above asset value of 89p a share which does not sound such good value for what is essentially a service company.**

**Giltspur half of whose profits come from display and exhibition work is also strong in freight, packaging and motor distribution, all areas which are of interest to TDC. Should Leyland come out of hibernation the motor interest could be especially interesting. So outside shareholders risk losing little by sitting tight.**

## Business Diary: Offshore, off the peg • Sir Geoffrey and Mrs O



If we can no longer export Shakespeare the economy really is up the creek.

times of the Heath government buried about the country opening up consumer advice centres. The centres have been closed in scores since this Government ended its grants and imposed cash limits on local authorities. If this suggests that Sir Geoffrey may not have an easy ride, also bear in mind that Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the present Minister for consumer affairs, was booted at this year's national consumer congress in Sheffield, where she berated the National Consumer Council for meddling in taxation policy, which according to her, should be none of her concern.

The National Consumer Council has secured the agreement of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to address the National Consumer Congress. It is planning for next April.

There is some poignancy about the engagement. Sir Geoffrey was the first consumer minister appointed in Britain and, in the more optimistic



Geoffrey speaks.

The irrepressible Mrs Oppenheim, meanwhile, achieved a double best week by being booted again at an international consumer congress in Paris. French and Belgian trade union delegates took exception to her suggestion that unreasonable consumer pressures on business and industry should not be encouraged in a time of recession.

Having departed the political stage in our islands Sir Richard March, I hear, is about to earn himself with the fortunes of somebody else's.

Sir Richard is one of a group of middlemen in this country acting on behalf of San Tome, a small island in the Atlantic.

Manufrance, one of the great French industrial institutions, has finally collapsed. Ian Murray reports

## Death of the Old Lady of St Etienne

Paris  
At 11.15 on Tuesday morning Judge Marie Bouraud, president of the commercial tribunal of Saint Etienne, announced to the press crammed into his small, functional court room that the Société Nouvelle Manufrance, manager of Société Manufrance, is in a state of liquidation.

Judge Bouraud has dreaded saying those words for a long time and been searching for every excuse to avoid doing so, just over a month ago he went so far as to cast his habitual caution to the winds and approach a doubtful scheme put forward by a young financial adventurer who claimed he had a miracle Swiss cure for Manufrance—the Old Lady of Saint Etienne—as the company has become known.

The Old Lady has been so ill for so long now that in the end Judge Bouraud's decision was not so much a death sentence as an act of kindness. At the age of 93, the Old Lady has been in obvious death throes for the past four years and, in the end, Judge Bouraud has been an increasingly unsavoury affair to an end.

Even so, her demise has been greeted rather incredulously by the people of Saint Etienne (a town near Lyons) who have grown up believing in her immortality. The 1,875 remaining employees heard the news from journalists who ran from the court to the factory, which had been in half-heated occupation since the previous evening. The union leaders sitting in the fine panelled board room had been unable to ring through to the court, so that the judge and his wife had all left the building.

The belief is the ability of the city's main employer to bequeath half the shares to the city of Saint Etienne itself, on the condition never adhered to, that the city council took no part in the running of the company. The remaining shares were distributed among what became an annual turnover of 57m.

It was as though M Mimard had died leaving his widow unprovided for and that the lady to whom he had consecrated most of his life had begun to age very quickly. He had not meant to leave her unprovided for, but that was inevitable.

When his other heirs he left half of the shares to the city of Saint Etienne itself, on the condition never adhered to, that the city council took no part in the running of the company. The remaining shares were distributed among what became an annual turnover of 57m.

Things could not continue

like that for long, however. Outside the sanctuary-like walls of Manufrance unemployment in the area was growing rapidly and as a consequence the communists vote was growing, as is always the case in France. In 1977 a communist town council was elected which meant that the party was now the largest single shareholder. From then on the writing was on the wall, along with all the other graffiti sprayed on the factory buildings. No private money was really interested in the risk.

Between 1975 and May of this year six different managing directors arrived as great white hopes for the salvation of the company, only to leave disillusioned by union intransigence, political apathy.

Since May much has happened, most of it undignified, in desperate attempts to save the company. The last chapter was written during September when a young Bordeaux businessman called M Jean-Claude Dumas

with an interesting but unsuccessful career in public relations, Caribbean radio and telephone answering services became involved.

M. Dumas had sold his shares to a Swiss banking consortium, which had sold over

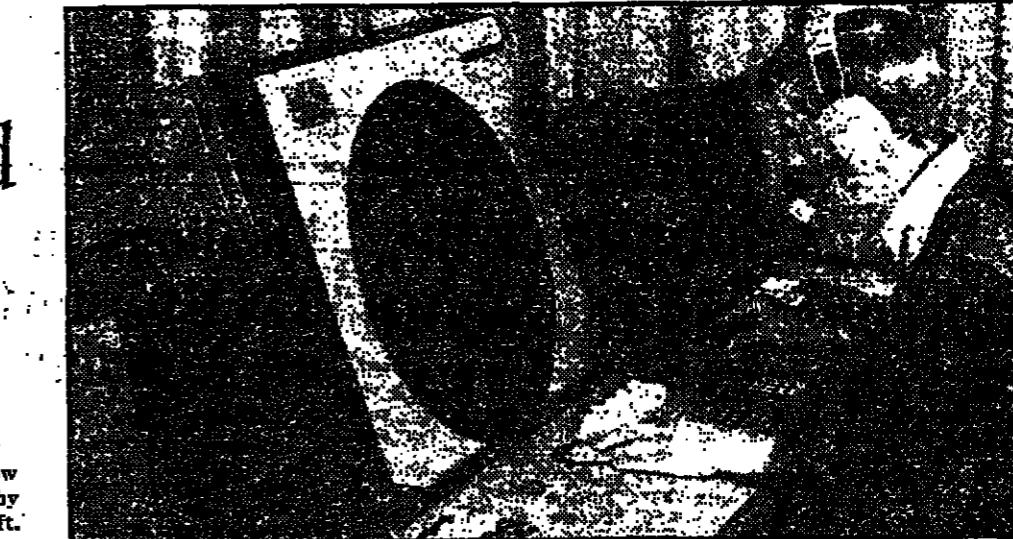
£1m of its shares to Unicef.

The trouble was that as years went by the company's style and methods became as dated as knickerbockers. All seemed well as long as it was its founding father, M Etienne Mimard, was at the helm, but when he died at the age of 82 in 1944 affairs started to go downhill more rapidly than a free-wheeling Manufrance bicycle.

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## Technology

### The 'brain' behind Britain's air defences

This air defence operator's console is typical of the equipment now being developed for the Ukade command and control system by Plessey, Marconi Radar and Hughes Aircraft.

In the computer technology of defence, the obvious elements

include radar stations to detect

an enemy attack and missiles

and manned interceptors to de

feat with it. Less obvious, to

the lay person, is the command

and control network that underpins the complete system, taking the radar data in at one end

and despatching an aircraft

or missile at the other.

If the radars are the eyes and ears of a nation's air defence, the command and control system is its brain, feeding instructions to the first that delivers the defensive punch.

Time was when the command

and control system consisted of

Sir Francis Drake being told

of the approach of the Spanish

Armada and completing his

game of bowls before setting

out from Plymouth. Things are now less leisurely and more complicated.

The inelegant phrase "Air

Defence Ground System" (Adge) has been coined to

describe the information and control

systems on the ground which match the incoming

threat in the air with the appropriate response. Thus a

Nato-wide system introduced in

1960 was known as Noddy,

and the improved United King

dom, being funded mainly by

Nato, the standard Nato pro

cedures were used to evaluate

the competing bids. Each bid

consisted of two parts—techni

cal proposals and a contract

price. On May 1 this year the

two bids were submitted to the

Ministry of Defence in

London.

First, the technical proposals

were examined to establish

compliance—whether they

met the specifications laid

down. Both were

compiled.

The first price envelopes

were opened and, as Nato in

sists, the lower bidder was

automatically selected.

The lower bidder was UKSL,

whose selection was announced

in early September. Now the

UKSL project team, located in

rather undistinguished GEC

premises near the Aldwych,

London, has begun to plan the

implementation of the programme.

Their starting point is the following assessment.

The main air threat to the United Kingdom in the foreseeable future will consist of increasing numbers of high-speed aircraft fitted with modern electronic counter-measures (ECM) equipment able to operate at high or low levels and approach the United Kingdom from the direction of the threat.

The London team, which will grow to about 100 people, will handle overall systems design and integration of programme management. It will place sub-contracts with the four companies for the development and supply of their respective sub-systems.

Marconi will provide the display consoles, including software and voice communications. Plessey will supply digital data communications, including software, and a four-colour indicator for the display console. Hughes will provide a data-processing equipment and software and a large screen display.

Thomson-CSF will provide additional engineering expertise and will manufacture some equipment under subcontract to UKSL and its parent companies.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Bad news from ICI fails to daunt many buyers

The market remained in consistent mood yesterday and was able to shrug off the unchanged MLR and news of losses from ICI.

Jobbers reported strong buying and a general increase in volume but admitted that the buying remained selective. The institutions were obviously remaining cautious in such a thin market and were sticking to the familiar sectors of oils, electricals and shares.

Stock shortages again gave a somewhat exaggerated slant to most price movements, although strong two-way business was reported in ICI where more than 2 million shares changed hands. This followed a statement by the company forecasting losses of about £10m for the third quarter. However, the subsequent warning on the dividend saw the shares dip to 315p before recovering to 330p, a net rise of 8p on the day.

The market was also treated to some fairly lively news on the bid front, where shares of Coral Leisure were suspended at 82p. The news that Bass had decided to bid £84m saw the shares jump 9p to 91p on being re-quoted while Bass itself eased 7p to 210p. Grand Met, the pre-

vious suitor, has decided to drop out after the reference to the Moatways Commission and its shares rose 3p to 160p.

Business after hours continued to be brisk and the FT Index, which had climbed 3.4

Stand by for some bullish news from Plessey next week. Word is the group is now ready to announce a major new telecommunications contract. Investors were not slow to react yesterday, the shares rose 10p to 275p.

at noon, eventually closed at 162p for the day 3.8 up to 492.5.

Gilts spent a quiet day seemingly unperturbed by the decision to leave MLR unchanged at 16 per cent. Investors were content to sit on the sidelines awaiting the call of £425m later today. As a result, prices, after fluctuating in a thin market all day, closed unchanged across the list.

Leading industrialists continued to climb in line with the rest of the market, although little interest was shown. Rank jumped 10p to 180p, following favourable third-quarter figures from Xerox, while Unilever, awaiting

figures next month, eased 8p to 473p. Elsewhere, Glaxo rose 6p to 242p, Pisons 3p to 196p and Bowater 1p to 178p.

Shares of Giltspur rose 5p to 110p after hours following the £20m bid from Transport Development, down 1p to 75p. Lawrence Scott added 3p to 57p as the bid from Mining Supplies went unconditional.

Hanson Trust firmed another 10p to 185p on the back of its recent 174m United States acquisition, with International Thomson rising another 1p to 377p on its decision to sell Times Newspapers.

The leisure sector came to prominence after the latest Coral bid. Pleasureland strengthened 2p to 173p along with Horizon Travel, up 7p to 332p. Saga Holidays was 20p better at 206p on news of interim profits 20 per cent higher. Only Ladbroke went against the trend, sliding 5p to 229p.

Shares of FJC Lilley showed initial nervousness after the announcement of a £3.2m rights issue, but recovered to close 4p up to 92p as the market approved of the satisfactory trading figures. But it was less impressed with the interim statement from Gill & Duffus, 5p lower at 188p. In the mean-

time, satisfactory profits saw up 3p to 327p. Bursmash 1p to 200p, and Tricentrol 8p to 406p, but profit-taking had Ultrafran 3p lighter at 46p.

Recent trading news had Dupont 3p better at 249p and

Barclays 3p to 452p. Lloyd's 5p to 328p and National Westminster 5p to 410p.

Gold shares reacted to the lower bullion price with some heavy falls, particularly at the dearer end of the market. Anglo Am Gold fell 22p to £411. W. D. Warrener 11p to £411. St. Helens 11p to £411. D. & G. 15p to 16p. and Vast Reefs 2p to £373. At the cheaper end, Vialac Fontaine fell 40p to 468p. Grootfontein fell 40p to 486p. Groote Kruis 29p to 51p. Rand Mine Prop 20p to 333p and Kinross 25p to 678p. In mining financials, Consolidated Gold Fields fell 13p to 626p and KTC lost 7p to 468p.

Insurance shares, trad Sun Life up a further 2p to 244p as word of a large movement of shares was confirmed. The Kuwait Investment Office has sold its 10 per cent stake to South African Life at 252p, a share. Peer Assurance was a good form, rising 14p to 464p, but the rest of the sector closed mixed.

Equity incomes on October 22 was £199.327m (£17,809 bar.

Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: GSC, Ultramar, BPL, ICI, Coral Leisure, Plessey, Rank Tate & Lyle, Lasmco, Gill & Duffus, GUS, Hawker Siddeley, KCA, Int. Artcock and BEIS.

Traded Options: Total contracts fell from 3,498 to 1,682. BPL led the field on 361 contracts, followed by Marks & Spencer on 306.

Traditional options had a busy declaration day with calls in Town & City on 24p, and Double Eagle on £2. A put was arranged in Marks & Spencer at 6p with doubles in Ciba-Geigy and British Gas.

Gains were also seen in Lasmco, Gold and British Gas.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div.	Per share	Div. pence	Per share	Div. pence	Per share	Year's date	Total pence
Int'l Fins. (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BSG Int'l (F)	156.7 (159)	6.59 (5.08)	4,183.12	15p	0.55 (0.75)	—	—	—	—	3.8 (3.1)	—
Gill & D. (F)	—	4.0* (4.15)	—	—	—	(0.95)	—	—	—	—	—
Norman Hay (F)	2.2 (2.1)	0.17 (0.24)	2,121.91	2p	4.14 (0.7)	—	—	—	—	8.47 (7.01)	—
Hunting Assoc (F)	76.53 (61)	3.73 (2.2)	1,011.23	1p	1.01 (1.5)	8.12	—	—	—	—	—
F. J. Scott (F)	76.53 (44)	2.73 (2.4)	818.17	1p	1.31 (1.54)	28/11	—	—	—	7.85 (7.85)	—
W. Lovell (F)	94.83 (74.15)	2.23 (2.4)	25.5 (22.2)	1p	0.54 (0.63)	5/1	—	—	—	7.57 (7.0)	—
McKechnie Bros (F)	128.8 (121.1)	15.45 (15.12)	31.6 (22.9)	1p	5.27 (4.93)	—	—	—	—	7.76 (7.63)	—
Stan. Miller (F)	7.42 (6.02)	0.05 (0.08)	—	—	0.61 (0.61)	21/11	—	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth News (F)	10.24 (8.77)	1.29 (1.32)	5.37 (5.15)	1p	0.91 (0.91)	18/12	—	—	—	—	—
Sage (F)	25.5 (23.1)	2.42 (2.45)	2,124.55	1p	0.55 (0.65)	15/12	—	—	—	9.75 (9.5)	—
Spencer Gears (F)	6.87 (6.77)	0.40 (0.45)	2,192.34	1p	0.65 (0.65)	—	—	—	—	—	—
J. Smed (F)	3.39 (3.24)	0.13 (0.17)	6.52 (6.13)	2p	2.32 (2.14)	5/12	3.16 (2.75)	—	—	—	—
Stogram (F)	0.99 (0.44)	0.02 (0.02)	0.79 (0.67)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sphere Inv (F)	—	1.52 (1.22)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W. Tyack, Sons (F)	4.6 (5.13)	0.06 (0.03)	4.9 (2.1)	1p	0.55 (0.55)	—	—	—	—	2.51 (2.51)	—
Wilkin Mitchell (F)	25.6 (25.63)	0.48* (0.51)	7.6* (3.61)	1p	0.75 (0.75)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on preference shareholders. Elsewhere in business news dividends are shown on a gross basis. * = estimated. Dividends are multiplied by 1.428. Profits are shown net of tax on preference shareholders. Elsewhere in business news dividends are shown on a gross basis. * = loss; + = company estimate.											

## Mining Supplies wins take-over bid for Scott

Mining Supplies, the Doncaster-based mining machinery manufacturer, announced yesterday that it had won control of Laurence Scott.

Mining Supplies now controls just over 64 per cent of shares in Scott, the Northumbrian electrical equipment firm, after a bitter take-over battle. Its £4.5m bid has been declared unconditional.

Shareholders owning almost 29 per cent of Scott shares accepted the 60p a share cash offer, with a further 7 per cent being pledged to the share exchange offer.

With the 27 per cent stake picked up by Mining Supplies through its dawn raid in stock-

## Dealings in TNT to start on Monday

By Catherine Gunn

Dealing in the shares of Australia's largest freight carrier, Thomas Nationwide Transport, start in London on Monday. Pressure from British institutional holders and the group's expansion in this country are behind the move, Mr Fred Miller, chairman, said yesterday.

Roughly a quarter of TNT's 45.6m shares are held outside Australia. Some 3.8m were placed privately here by Bambers Bank earlier this week, "for the spread", explained TNT chief executive Sir Peter Abeles yesterday. The 128p a share price was a 7 per cent discount on the price ruling in Sydney at the time.

TNT made £572m (£37.2m) before tax on gross revenue of £572m (£37.2m) in the year to June 30. The first quarter of this year has been "satisfactory".

The bulk of its profits comes from Australia and Sir Peter intends that to continue. However, interests in Canada, New Zealand, the United States, Brazil and Britain provided nearly half of the 1980 after-tax profit of £40.2m.

In the United Kingdom, Sir Peter sees British Rail's decision to pull out of passenger carrying as a stimulus to expand the London Express and TNT Overnite. But he has no plans to acquire any part of the National Freight Corporation when it is de-nationalized.

Nor is he anxious to have a share stake in the NFC if de-nationalization takes that route.

"Generally speaking we like to control", he said yesterday.

## Bias for UK holidays leaves Saga unruffled

By Margaret Pagan

Dealing in the shares of Australia's largest freight carrier, Thomas Nationwide Transport, start in London on Monday. Pressure from British institutional holders and the group's expansion in this country are behind the move, Mr Fred Miller, chairman, said yesterday.

Although the strength of sterling makes overseas holidays more attractive, Saga finds that profit margins are as rewarding in the UK as abroad. The year saw the total investment of £11.5m, of which 5.5m came from client payments placed in local authority bonds which yielded interest of £1.4m compared with £1.2m in the year earlier.

Taxation was reduced from 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits was matched by a 20 per cent increase in the total gross dividend to 12.8p compared with 10.7p last year.

The final 2.9p gross compares with 7.14p last year. Turnover rose from £23m to £25.5m.

Operating profits, which

exclude interest from investment income, went down from £1.2m to £955,000 in the year to June.

Mr Roger De Haan, the managing director, said it was the company's policy to place emphasis on profit for holidays clients directly into investment.

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The 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits was matched by a 20 per cent increase in the total gross dividend to 12.8p compared with 10.7p last year.

Taxation was reduced from £1.2m to £7.8m because of the leasing of industrial equipment which was completed before June. Leasing, which brings tax relief, brought in £2.2m worth of contracts for milking machines, tractors and so forth.

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## Motoring

### A cheap car that loses on performance

Since motorists in Poland tend to drive with the same sort of enthusiasm as their counterparts in Italy, it is appropriate that the modern Polish car industry should have been established through technical collaboration with Italy's main car manufacturer.

Under an agreement concluded in 1966 Fiat helped to set up a car factory in Warsaw and assisted in the production, under licence, of its 125 medium saloon. The car is known as the Polski-Fiat and was first sold in Britain in 1975.

Since the 125 ceased production in Italy eight years ago, it is now a very old design, especially in mechanical areas. The main reason for buying the Polski-Fiat is that it is cheap. Like other East European cars, it is sold in the West at artificially low prices to earn much needed foreign currency.

Under a second licensing agreement, Poland makes the smaller Fiat 126 partly for domestic consumption but also for toping up Fiat's supplies to Western European markets, in-



Volkswagen Passat—a new look and a five cylinder engine.

cluding for the first time this year Britain. About 1,600 Polish-built 126s were sold here up to the end of last month.

The Polski-Fiat, meanwhile, has spawned a derivative, the Polonez, which cloches the Fiat 125 mechanicals in a new, Polish-designed, five-door bodyshell. The Polonez is destined gradually to replace the Polski-Fiat. Additional versions, a three-door and a coupé, are on the way and so are new 1.6, 1.8 and two-litre engines based on the Fiat twin cam.

Output of the Polish car industry at present is about 355,000 units a year, a modest total by West European standards, comprising 220,000 126s and 135,000 Polski-Fiat and Polonez models. There are no immediate plans to expand capacity, an indication that private motoring still comes well down the list of priorities in the Comecon countries.

The first thing to be said about the Polonez in Britain is that it is not sold at the bargain price of the Polski-Fiat, or for that matter the Russian Lada or Czechoslovak Skoda. At £3,475, however, it is still substantially cheaper than Western rivals like the Renault 14 (starting at £3,965), Talbot Alpine (from £4,289) and the Austin Maxi (4,327).

The Polonez is crisply styled, 14 feet long; it offers accommodation for up to five people, with plenty of head and leg-room in the back. The Western cars mentioned all have a better length-space ratio, mainly by using front-wheel drive. The Polonez boot is not exceptional for the class of car. It is the

only hatchback without a folding rear seat.

Side-rubbing strips and plastic bumpers are sensibly provided to absorb minor knocks, which is particularly useful as the extremities of the vehicles cannot be seen from the driver's seat. Visibility is also reduced by thick rear quarter panels, a case, surely, for the third side window.

The Polonez may look like a car of today but mechanically it belongs to the 1960s. This shows in several ways. Replacements for the 1.481 cc overhead valve engine will come none too soon; it is slow to warm up, noisy when at all stretched and struggles to move what is, admittedly, a rather heavy car. Performance is well below the average for the class and so is fuel consumption, my town figure being only 22 mpg and touring 29 mpg.

The next area for attention should be the worm and roller steering, which combines heaviness at low speed with a vagueness on the move that recalls so many Japanese cars. And as the Polonez has a wide turning circle, it is not the ideal vehicle for manoeuvring into tight parking slots. The clutch is heavy and the brakes, though all disc, are neither smooth nor progressive. The car corners with little roll and generally predictable understeer, and has reasonably good roadholding. But it can be pushed off line by strong cross-winds. The gear shift is pleasant, and the ratios well chosen, and in view of the antiquated leaf spring rear suspension, ride quality is surprisingly good (it certainly puts the new Ford Escort to shame).

The seats are good, softly upholstered, and attractively trimmmed. Steering wheel height adjustment should help to accommodate awkwardly shaped drivers; even if there is a hint of the characteristic "Italian" driving position, which demands long arms and short legs, the heating and ventilation system is ineffectual.

The choke knob is so well hidden under the fascia that I assumed the car did not have a choke and wondered why the vehicle was so difficult to start.

Not being provided with a handbook, I had eventually to ring up the importer to find out where the choke was. Even with the choke, starting the car in the morning was not easy.

The Polonez does not stint on equipment. There are front halogen fog lamps, laminated windscreen, rear screen-washer, wiper, much appreciated in the recent heavy rain, lockable filler cap, clock and revolution counter. The tailgate is opened by a lever next to the driver's seat, both a convenience and a safety measure.

To criticize the Polonez is a way of underlining how far car design has advanced in the last 15 years or so. In the 1960s Fiat, whose 125 layout the Polonez has inherited, was widely regarded as the European leader in family cars. Since then Western car-makers have advanced in all sorts of ways, in packaging, refinement, performance and fuel economy, leaving countries like Poland with much leeway to make up.

**Bounty prospect**

With the Mini Metro launched to deserved acclaim, attention is now being focused on BL's next new model, code-named 'Bounty', which is due to start production at Cowley next summer. Details released in Japan of the Honda Ballade, the car on which the Bounty will be based, give a fair

idea of what we can expect.

The Ballade is 13 feet 5 inches long, in BL terms just a little smaller than the Morris Ital and a conventionally styled four-door, three-box saloon. Mechanically it is similar to the Honda Civic, with a transverse-mounted engine driving the front wheels.

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